

Message Text

SECRET

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SUBJECT: DEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 1, 1975
(SALT TWO-498)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MINISTER
SEmenov AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF FEB. 1, 1975.

QUOTE

SEmenov STATEMENT, FEBRUARY 1, 1975

THE DELEGATIONS OF THE USSR AND THE U.S. NOW BEGIN
TO CARRY OUT THE RESPONSIBLE TASK PLACED BEFORE THEM BY
THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH STATES--PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT
TEXT OF A NEW AGREEMENT ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC
OFFENSIVE ARMS FOR THE PERIOD UNTIL THE END OF 1985. THIS
TASK WAS DEFINED BY THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED AS A RESULT
OF THE TALKS HELD IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR IN VLADIVOSTOK
BETWEEN GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
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CPSU L.I. BREZHNEV AND U.S. PRESIDENT GERALD FORD.

AS YOU KNOW, AT THE VLADIVOSTOK TALKS THE SOVIET UNION AND THE U.S. SPECIALLY EMPHASIZED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACHED TO LIMITING STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS, AND EXPRESSED THEIR CONVICTION THAT A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT ON THIS SCORE WOULD CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE U.S., TO REDUCING THE THREAT OF WAR AND STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

IN THE DOCUMENT CONCERNING THE RESULTS OF THE VLADIVOSTOK MEETING THE POLITBUROU OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CPSU, THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR NOTED THAT "THE UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED, WHOSE IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE AN IMPORTANT STEP ON THE ROAD TO LASTING PEACE AND SECURITY OF NATIONS, ARE HIGHLY REGARDED IN THE SOVIET UNION."

AS YOU KNOW, THE COURSE ADOPTED AT THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE CPSU, AIMED AT STRENGTHENING UNIVERSAL PEACE AND ELIMINATING THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR, LIES AT THE BASIS OF THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE SOVIET UNION. IT IS PRECISELY THIS THAT GOVERNS THE APPROACH OF THE SOVIET SIDE TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL.

OBJECTIVE REALITY IN OUR TIME IS SUCH THAT POLITICAL DETENTE AND MILITARY DETENTE WHICH COMPLEMENTS IT ARE NOT ONLY ADVANTAGEOUS FOR BOTH SIDES, BUT ALSO NECESSARY FOR BOTH SIDES, AND MEET THE INTERETS OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES AND OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.

THE RESULTS OF THE VLADIVOSTOK TALKS HAVE MET WITH A WIDE AND FAVORABLE RESPONSE EVERYWHERE. IT IS THEREFORE QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE DELEGATIONS OF THE USSR AND THE U.S., WHICH ARE CALLED UPON TO EMBODY THE VLADIVOSTOK UNDERSTANDING INTO CONCRETE PROVISIONS OF A NEW DRAFT AGREEMENT, ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF A BROAD SPECTRUM OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION.

THE MANDATE GIVEN THE DELEGATIONS IMPOSES UPON THEM A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

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MR. AMBASSADOR,

UPON COMPLETION OF THE TALKS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, A THOROUGH AND SPECIFIC ANALYSIS OF THE ISSUES WAS CARRIED OUT IN MOWCOW ON THE BASIS OF THEIR RESULTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND U.S. DELEGATIONS. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS WORK WAS TO CONSIDER

HOW TO EMBODY MOST FULLY AND EFFECTIVELY IN THE LANGUAGE OF AN AGREEMENT THE SPECIFIC UNDERSTANDING ACHIEVED BETWEEN OUR STATES AS A RESULT OF THE VLADIVOSTOK TALKS. THE ISSUES AT THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN AND REMAIN IN THE FIELD OF VISION OF THE HIGHEST AUTHORITIES OF THE USSR.

THE TALKS PLACED BEFORE THE DELEGATIONS IS TO PREPARE THE TEXT OF A DRAFT AGREEMENT THAT STRICTLY CORRESPONDS TO THE VLADIVOSTOK UNDERSTANDING.

ACCORDINGLY, THE NEW AGREEMENT MUST BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND EQUAL SECURITY.

AS AGREED IN VLADIVOSTOK, THE AGREEMENT MUST PROVIDE FOR LIMITING STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS QUANTITATIVELY AS WELL AS QUALITATIVELY, AS PROVIDED FOR BY THE UNDERSTANDING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. WHILE INCORPORATING APPROPRIATE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT OF MAY 26, 1972, THE NEW AGREEMENT MUST ENCOMPASS A WIDER RANGE OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS.

THE AGREEMENT MUST BLOCK POSSIBLE CHANNELS FOR UNLEASHING A RACE IN STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT THAT PROVISIONS ON RESTRAINT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TYPES OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS BE A COMPONENT PART THEREOF.

THE AGREEMENT MUST OPEN UP PROSPECTS FOR SUBSEQUENT MEASURES OF STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AND, IN PARTICULAR, CONTAIN PROVISIONS ON FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACHIEVING FURTHER LIMITATIONS ON AND POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS OF SUCH ARMS.

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THE SOVIET SIDE IS CONVINCED THAT PRECISELY THAT KIND OF AN AGREEMENT WOULD CORRESPOND TO THE GOAL SET BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE USSR AND THE U.S. AS A RESULT OF THE VLADIVOSTOK UNDERSTANDING.

IN ITS ANALYSIS IN MOSCOW THE SOVIET SIDE PROCEEDED FROM THE PREMISE THAT, AS NOTED IN THE JOINT SOVIET-AMERICAN STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 24, 1974, THERE ARE FAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR COMPLETING WORK ON THE NEW AGREEMENT IN 1975. AS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CPSU L.I. BRIZHNEV NOTED IN HIS SPEECH IN ULAN BATOR ON NOVEMBER 26, 1974, THE PARTIES AGREED THAT WORK ON THE AGREEMENT WILL BE COMPLETED DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE SET TASK ON TIME WOULD, WE ARE CONVINCED, ALSO BE AN INDICATION OF THE RESOLVE OF OUR STATES FIRMLY TO FOLLOW

THE COURSE ESTABLISHED BY SOVIET-AMERICAN AGREEMENTS OF RECENT YEARS.

GUIDED BY THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, THE SOVIET SIDE HAS PREPARED AN APPROPRIATE DRAFT AGREEMENT, THE USSR DELEGATION IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO TABLE A DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. I WOULD LIKE TO READ AND HAND YOU THE TEXT OF THE SOVIET DRAFT

BEGIN PARENTS. DRAFT TEXT IS READ AND HANDED OVER. END PARENTS.

MR. AMBASSADOR,

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT PROCEEDS FROM THE PREMISE THAT THE DRAFT WHICH HAS BEEN TABLED WILL BE MOST CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY THE U.S. SIDE. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE DOCUMENT REPRESENTS A GOOD CONSTRUCTIVE BASIS FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE DELEGATIONS, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ACCOMPLISHING THE TASK ENSUING FROM THE UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN VLADIVOSTOK.

IN THE COURSE OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS THE USSR DELEGATION INTENDS TO SET FORTH SUBSTANTIATING ARGUMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE PROVISIONS AND ARTICLES OF THE DRAFT TABLED.

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THE SOVIET SIDE STRIVES TO IMPART TO THE NEGOTIATIONS A BUSINESS-LIKE AND PROPOSEFUL CHARACTER OF THE HIGHEST ORDER FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE WORK OF THE DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA. WE PROCEED FROM THE PREMISE THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL BE GUIDED BY A LIKE APPROACH.

WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE USE OF ANY MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF WORK, WHICH COULD FACILITATE SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE RESPONSIBLE TASK PLACED BEFORE THE TWO DELEGATIONS.

UNQUOTE

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